

# Larry Wallach

551 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Hauppauge, NY 11788  
(Former address)

Larry Wallach is an animal exhibitor, previously operating Sloth Encounters, who has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibitions as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued Wallach critical citations for: failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public; failing to separate incompatible animals that resulted in injury of the animal; failing to follow the attending veterinarian's (AV) directions regarding a tiger cub with a fractured metacarpal bone; and interfering with USDA officials in the course of carrying out their duties by repeatedly providing false information regarding a sloth biting a member of the public who needed immediate medical attention by a professional. On July 22, 2023, the Suffolk County Supreme Court found Wallach in contempt of court after he continued to operate Sloth Encounters as a petting zoo under the pretense that it was a pet store in violation of a March 30, 2023, court order which required him to temporarily cease operations. Wallach did not shut down Sloth Encounters until March 2024, after the Court threatened to again hold him in contempt of court.

Contact PETA for documentation.

**January 28, 2026/Oyster Bay, NY:** The Town of Oyster Bay reportedly issued Wallach an appearance ticket for illegally possessing nonpermitted species in Oyster Bay. Wallach had a sloth and kangaroo in his car at the time.

**June 27, 2024/Hauppauge, NY:** Larry Wallach's USDA license, 21-C-0069, was canceled.

**May 25, 2024/Off-site exhibition:** The New York City Health Department reportedly issued Wallach a summons for bringing sloths and a kangaroo to a tattoo parlor without a permit. The tattoo parlor was reportedly issued a \$500 fine for hosting him.

**May 9, 2024/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach an Official Warning for violating the AWA by failing to separate incompatible sloths and for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. See January 30, 2024.

**May 7, 2024/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have disposition records for one degu, three sugar gliders, and ten lovebirds.

**January 30, 2024/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a critical citation for failing to handle sloths in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. A video showed an employee hitting a sloth with a spray bottle during a public encounter with four members of the public in the enclosure. The video showed one sloth falling to the ground and one with an injury around their mouth and nares. The video also showed Wallach grabbing both sloths at different times by the back of their necks. The sloths showed signs of distress, including flaying arm motions and attempting to bite.

Another critical citation was issued for failing to separate incompatible animals, which led to an altercation between the sloths. Wallach claimed that Eddie, one of the sloths involved in the altercation, was considered the instigator and would go after

the other sloths, including Cosmo and Sunny.

Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The food receptacle in the kangaroo enclosure had a broken handle, leaving sharp edges accessible. The artificial grass floor of the capybara enclosure was also damaged and left a flap of flooring accessible to the capybara, which the inspector said could be a hazard to the animals.

**October 5, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have an adequate fly control program. During inspection, a large number of black flies were seen in the kitchen, in the sloth exhibit area, and in the storefront, which housed the capybaras and kangaroo.

**August 15, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a complete written program of veterinary care. The document listed only sloths; no program of veterinary care was included for the other animals at the facility. Another citation was issued for failing to provide sloths with adequate humidity. The enclosure ranged from 54-55% humidity, but the inspector noted that sloths are sensitive to temperature and humidity, requiring a temperature of 75-88 degrees and 60-80% humidity for overall health.

**July 26, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** Wallach reportedly pleaded guilty to illegally possessing and transporting three Nile monitors and paid a \$250 fine.

**July 11, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** The Suffolk County Supreme Court found Wallach in civil contempt of court after he continued to operate Sloth Encounters as a petting zoo under the pretense that it was a pet store. The Court ordered Wallach to immediately cease from operating the subject premises as a pet store or petting zoo until necessary

approvals had been obtained from the town and be fined \$250 per day for each day he continued to operate as a pet store or petting zoo in violation of the March 30, 2023, court order.

**April 12, 2023//Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. At the time of inspection, an employee was seen feeding a kangaroo joey while they were being held horizontally on their back, which the inspector noted was “contraindicated for feeding this species,” and posed a risk of aspiration and accompanying aspiration pneumonia. A video also showed at least 10 members of the public roaming freely inside the sloth exhibit. There was excessive noise, and a sloth was shown to be grabbing with their claws toward a person’s finger that was pointing and nearly touching the sloth. The sloth was attempting to bite with an open mouth with their hair “puffed up,” which can indicate behavioral stress and discomfort.

**March 30, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** The Suffolk County Supreme Court granted a preliminary injunction against Wallach and his store, Sloth Encounters, ordering him to immediately cease any operations that were in violation of the Town of Islip code. Wallach was illegally using the commercially zoned property as a petting zoo. He was also found to be illegally harboring and possessing wild animals in the Town of Islip.

**March 3, 2023/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**October 19, 2022/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to notify the agency that he was taking two baby sloths off-site to unapproved locations. Wallach

informed officials that the baby sloths were housed with him at his brother's home or his girlfriend's home when the store was closed. Another citation was issued for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available for review.

**August 10, 2022/Hauppauge, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a critical citation for interfering with USDA officials by providing false information. The USDA received a complaint alleging that a sloth bit a member of the public during an encounter. At the time of inspection, officials asked Wallach multiple times if he was aware of a sloth biting a member of the public. Each time they asked, he stated he did not know of any bites during an encounter. USDA officials received documentation following the inspection showing that the Suffolk County Department of Health was notified that a member of the public was bitten and/or scratched by a sloth on July 24, 2022, during an encounter at Wallach's facility. The person required immediate professional medical care. The Department of Health issued an order of "Animal Containment" for a sloth named Edward on July 24, 2022. The order stated that the sloth was to be confined until August 23, 2022, for rabies observation. A copy of the order was signed by Wallach on July 28, 2022, 13 days prior to the USDA inspection.

At the time of inspection, officials also asked Wallach how the public was allowed to feed the sloths. Wallach stated that they are only allowed to feed using tongs. Pictures posted on Wallach's social media page the weekend immediately following the inspection showed two children and one adult being allowed to feed the sloths barehanded.

The USDA also issued a critical citation for failing to handle Edward in a way that minimized risk of harm to him and the public in relation to the July 24, 2022, incident.

**April 20, 2022/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**April 12, 2022/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**March 3, 2022/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to have complete acquisition documents for a sloth and disposition documents for a wallaby.

**January 19, 2022/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**June 9, 2021/ East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to maintain a sloth enclosure in good repair. The enclosure was in the garage and had an exposed light fixture hanging from the ceiling and a portable electric humidifier with the cord exposed on the floor, to which the sloth had access. The enclosure was also covered with a fabric tarp, which posed a potential fire hazard due to exposed electrical wires. A repeat citation was also issued for failing to have an adequate 8-foot perimeter fence around the outdoor wallaby enclosure.

A citation was issued for failing to have acquisition documents for a wallaby and sloth. Wallach also exhibited a serval to the public in a park in August 2020, without providing any documentation concerning that animal.

Another citation was issued for failing to handle a tiger cub in a way that minimized the risk of harm to them and the public. In August 2020, Wallach also took a 6-week-old tiger cub to a park where the public handled and pet the cub. Wallach did not restrict access to the unleashed cub and did not maintain a barrier, allowing the cub to walk among the crowd.

Lastly, a citation was issued for housing a sloth in an enclosure in the garage, which was surrounded by clutter. The room contained many items of varying sizes stacked on the floor, as well as bikes hanging from the ceiling.

**January 28, 2021/East Rockaway, NY:**

The USDA issued Wallach a critical citation for failing to follow the AV's directions for a tiger cub with a fractured metacarpal bone. The AV recommended treating the fracture with "confinement" and stated that the healing process "would take about a month." A video revealed that Wallach allowed the tiger cub to play and run with his dog, as well as jump on and off a coffee table. In another video, Wallach stated that the cub continues to limp. A citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of trauma, behavioral stress, or unnecessary discomfort. A video showed the tiger cub interacting with an animal Wallach stated was 100% wolf, although he had told the USDA that they were a wolf-hybrid. A handler was controlling the wolf on a leash. At one point, the wolf lunged at the tiger cub and continued pulling on the leash throughout the interaction. The tiger cub responded to the wolf by maintaining distance, jumping onto the sofa, and swatting at the wolf's face, an action the inspector notes could have resulted in injury. The video also showed Wallach pulling on the tiger's tail to get her to stop eating, while saying, "She's angry."

Another citation was issued for failing to maintain the tiger enclosure in good repair. The enclosure's floor was composed of wooden boards; at least two areas had holes due to rotting. The holes were large enough to leave the potential of the tiger's paw or claw becoming trapped and injured. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have an adequate 8-foot perimeter fence around the tiger's outdoor enclosure. A video and statements made by Wallach indicated that he brought the tiger cub inside the house many times using only a leash for control. There was no secondary containment should the door open and the tiger escape the leash.

**February 2, 2017/East Rockaway, NY:**

Hempstead Town officials reportedly issued summonses to Wallach after a wallaby was found with no food or water in his garage. The animal was emaciated and starving. The town's building department issued Wallach the summonses for harboring the wallaby and a ball python, construction without a permit for an in-ground pool, and no certificate of completion for central air conditioning units. Wallach reportedly surrendered the wallaby to the Nassau County SPCA.

**July 7, 2016/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**December 2, 2013/East Rockaway, NY:**

The USDA suspended Wallach's license for 6 months after he admitted to willfully violating the AWA. See April 26, 2013.

**April 26, 2013/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA filed a complaint against Wallach for willfully and repeatedly violating the AWA over 30 times from May 2008-October 2012. The USDA stated that the gravity of the

violations was great, and he had not shown good faith.

**September 27, 2012/East Rockaway, NY:**

The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**August 31, 2011/East Rockaway, NY:**

The USDA cited Wallach for failing to notify the USDA about his change of address within 10 days. USDA officials attempted an inspection at the East Rockaway, NY, location and were informed that as of July 28, 2011, he was no longer living there.

**September 28, 2010/East Rockaway, NY:**

The USDA cited Wallach for failing to notify the USDA about a photoshoot he was conducting in Fayetteville, NC.

**May 11, 2010/Off-site exhibition:**

The USDA cited Wallach for using a juvenile tiger cub who was too big to be safely handled for public contact. Members of the public were allowed to go into the cage with the tiger, while two people held leashes, but the inspector noted that a tiger of that size required a public barrier between them and the public. Another citation was issued for housing a small tiger cub in a metal dog pen. The tiger cub appeared to have rubbed their nose raw by rubbing it against the wire cage sides. The inspector noted that another cub had a scrape on the nose bridge, showing that this was a reoccurring condition and needed to be prevented with alternative housing. See March 3, 2009.

**December 14, 2009/Off-site exhibition:**

The USDA cited Wallach for failing to submit itineraries for off-site exhibitions.

**August 28, 2009/Off-site exhibition:**

The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available for review.

**March 30, 2009/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to maintain adequate medical records documenting antibiotics administered to a tiger cub. A repeat citation was also issued for failing to maintain acquisition documents for a wallaby and bear cub. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to notify the USDA that the wallaby would be housed at Wallach's friend's house. Wallach claimed that the wallaby was his pet, but the inspector noted that the animal was recently on exhibit in Florida See March 3, 2009.

**March 3, 2009/Off-site exhibition:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to maintain adequate medical records documenting treatments administered. A tiger cub had a scrape on her nose bridge, which appeared to be in the healing phase. Wallach alleged that the condition existed when the animal was picked up from the airport and he had applied ointment when it was pointed out during the inspection. There were no records to document any application.

A citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them or the public. The wallaby enclosure did not have a public barrier, allowing the public to access with little effort. A citation was also issued for housing the wallaby in a wire metal dog crate that did not allow for normal postural movements. The USDA cited Wallach for failing to follow the veterinarian-approved diet plan for a tiger cub, which indicated that taurine and calcium were to be given with meat. Wallach was unable to produce any taurine or calcium at the time of inspection.

Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have adequate acquisition documents for the tiger cub. The records did not include the age or sex of the animal and indicated a bear cub had been sent along with the tiger cub. Wallach stated that he did not receive

a bear at the time.

**November 5, 2008/Off-site exhibition:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to house a cougar cub in an adequate enclosure. The cougar cub was being housed in a Vari Kennel in the garage. At the time of inspection, one door to the two-car garage was open, leaving the cougar cub unattended. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have an 8-foot perimeter fence around the facility. Another repeat citation was issued for housing the cougar cub in an enclosure in the garage, which was cluttered. Lastly, a citation was issued for using only an elastic band to close the enclosure housing a wallaby.

**August 5, 2008/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have documentation of medications provided to a tiger cub who was said to be receiving antifungal medication. A citation was issued for failing to house a tiger cub in an adequate enclosure. The tiger cub was being housed in a Vari Kennel in a garage. At the time of inspection, one door to the two-car garage was open, leaving the tiger cub unattended. A citation was also issued for failing to have an 8-foot perimeter fence around the facility. Lastly, a citation was issued for housing the tiger cub in an enclosure in the garage, which was surrounded by clutter. The garage had scuba tanks, motorized children's toys, and other miscellaneous household items surrounding the tiger cub.

**May 27, 2008/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a written program of veterinary care and dietary plan available for review. A citation was also issued for failing to submit itineraries for off-site exhibitions.

**May 13, 2008/Off-site exhibition:** The USDA issued Wallach a direct citation for failing to handle animals in a way that

minimized risk of harm to them and the public. Wallach was exhibiting a young juvenile tiger cub to the public in a chain-link, open-top cage with the animal tethered part of the time by a leash attached to the platform of the cage. Members of the public were allowed to lean over the back of the tiger toward their head, while the animal was up on a waist-high platform to take photos. Several members of the public were allowed to place their hands on both sides of the tiger's neck just behind the head, or even alongside their head. At one point, the tiger became restless. There also was no lock on the enclosure or barrier between the public and the enclosure, and members of the public were observed to be putting their fingers into the cage.

Wallach was cited for failing to have a written program of veterinary care for all animals available for review. Wallach was exhibiting three tiger cubs but didn't have records of the older cub's vaccination history and did not know when the young cubs were due for vaccinations. One of the young cubs had large areas of hair loss but there were no medical records showing treatment had been provided. The AV stated testing had been done but no diagnosis had been made. The cubs were being fed Esbilac, with an unknown amount of Oasis vitamins mixed in. Wallach did not have a written AV-approved diet plan for the cubs. Lastly, a citation was also issued for failing to have acquisition documents for a white juvenile tiger cub.

**March 4, 2005/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**September 1, 2004/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany

officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

for review.

**August 5, 2003/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA issued Wallach a repeat citation for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around the enclosure housing Spike, a Siberian tiger. A citation was also issued for failing to have disposition records for a black bear.

**May 27, 2003/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to handle a tiger in a way that minimized risk of harm to the animal and to the public. Photographs showed several people being allowed into the enclosure housing a juvenile or adult tiger and having physical contact with the unrestrained animal. Wallach was also cited for failing to have a knowledgeable attendant present during all periods of public contact. Three individuals were standing next to a mobile enclosure housing a 3–4-month-old bear cub. While the inspection was being conducted at the back of the facility, the bear cub was left unattended in the front driveway. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain structurally sound enclosures in good repair. A wooden shelter box had been damaged by the tiger, causing protruding, jagged edges. There were also loose boards that partially covered an old, built-in litter box. The boards would shift when the tiger walked across them. Lastly, Wallach was cited for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around the enclosure housing Spike, a Siberian tiger.

**August 29, 2002/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**March 27, 2001/East Rockaway, NY:** The USDA cited Wallach for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available